

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
EROSION OF HIMALAYAN GLACIERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the continuous erosion of glaciers of Himalayas ;
- (b) if so, whether the reasons for such an erosion have been ascertained ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the Himalayan glaciers ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to(c) Studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the Himalayan Glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a world wide phenomenon and is a natural cyclic process characteristic of the interglacial period.VT These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.The recession of Glaciers does not necessarily mean rapid melting of the glaciers. Even the reduction in the snowfall catchments may lead to recession of the glaciers without any appreciable change in the melting regime.

(d) As the recession of glaciers is a natural process, it is practically not possible to save the glaciers through artificial measures. However, in order to develop a proper understanding of the glacial changes and the impact of this natural phenomenon, the Government has commissioned a few studies including a comprehensive programme on the inventory of glaciers, fluctuations in their sizes and mass balance. In order to prevent climate change and global warming, the Kyoto Protocol stipulates Quantified Emission Limitation Reduction targets for greenhouse gases for a number of developed countries.